

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 13, 2004. Claims 1 and 3-6 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 is the independent claim.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 3-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has so amended the claims, and respectfully believes them to be in condition for allowance.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zhodzicshsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,367; hereinafter "Zhodzicshsky"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhodzicshsky and Zhodzicshsky in view of Schnauffer (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,558; hereinafter "Schnauffer"), respectively. Applicant respectfully believes that the incorporation of Claim 3 into Claim 1 renders the rejections moot and respectfully requests their withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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